

REFERRALS

Referrals are accepted from clients and families (or those acting on their behalf). Referrals may be submitted in one of three ways: **electronically, mail or fax:**

1. To submit a referral using our Electronic Referral Form, please visit our website at www.sdrc.ca.
2. To obtain a paper copy of the Referral Form, contact the main office of SDRC at 519-741-1121.
3. You can also visit our website to download a PDF copy of the form.

Upon receipt of a completed referral form and supporting documentation verifying eligibility for services, you will receive a Referral Confirmation email within 2 to 4 weeks, followed by contact from an Intake worker to schedule an initial Intake Appointment. The wait for an appointment varies depending on referral volumes and may take up to 6 months.

For referrals for adults 18 years and older, eligibility for developmental services must first be determined by Developmental Services Ontario. You can contact them through their Toll- Free number: 1-888-941-1121.

Once eligibility is determined a referral for services will be forwarded to SDRC on your behalf.

INQUIRIES

Please direct inquiries, referrals, and requests for services to:



205 - 1120 Victoria St. N.
Kitchener, Ontario N2B 3T2

Phone: 519-741-1121
Fax: 519-743-4730

Or email us at:
sdrc@sunbeamcommunity.ca

Website: www.sdrc.ca

Satellite Offices

<u>Elmira:</u>	118 Barnswallow Dr. Elmira, ON N3B 2Y9
<u>Hanson:</u>	65 Hanson Ave. Kitchener, ON, N2C 2H6
<u>Cambridge:</u>	757 King St. E. Cambridge, ON N3H 3N8



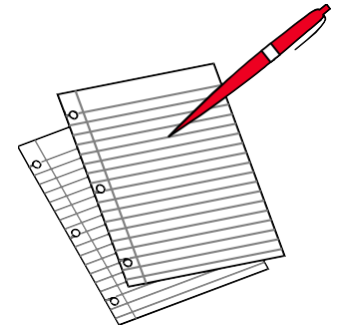
Funded by the Ministry of
Children, Community and Social Services

BRO-001-07-24



CONSENT & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

An Information Sheet on
Consent for Individuals
and Families



INTRODUCTION

Access to developmental services is dependent upon consent of the individual to participate. SDRC staff will generally take direction from the individual unless:

- They are under sixteen years of age and not able to provide an informed consent;
- They are unable to provide consent through verbal or augmentative methods;
- The worker believes the individual has no awareness or understanding of the issue.

This is especially important for parents of teenagers to know. By age 16, many services will base service provision on the request and consent of the individual instead of a parent.

LEGISLATION

SDRC adheres to the:

- **Child, Youth and Family Services Act**
- **Personal Health Information Protection Act**
- **Health Care Consent Act**
- **Substitute Decisions Act**

Where a person cannot provide consent, we recognize court-appointed guardians, then a spouse, a child, a parent, and a sibling (in that order). Further information on substitute decision-makers and priority ranking can be obtained through SDRC or through the office of the Public Guardian and Trustee.

Website: www.ontario.ca/page/office-public-guardian-and-trustee

INFORMED CONSENT AND WHO MAY GIVE IT

Individuals 16 years and older can give consent to a proposed action if:

1. They understand the nature of the treatment/action
2. They received proper disclosure of information from the caregiver
3. They have an opportunity to ask questions and to receive understandable answers
4. Their authorization is free of undue influence and coercion
5. Their authorization is free of misrepresentation of material information
6. They possess mental capacity and are legally competent to authorize care and treatment.

Under the law, individuals no longer have a “blanket” certificate of incompetency.

CONSENT AND VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Consent will be obtained from individuals 16 years and older for participation in developmental services’ programs (or making a referral to them) and for sharing information with parents, services, or others within the person’s support network.

Participation in developmental programs and services is always voluntary. Service providers cannot “compel” participation or acceptance of a service.

WHAT IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE CONSENT?

There are some situations where an individual may not be able to provide their own consent. For example, the individual may not be able to communicate using words, and does not communicate in other ways (e.g., PECS, sign language, etc.)

In such an event, SDRC would follow the guidelines provided in provincial legislation regarding guardianship of the person. These guidelines can be reviewed on request.

WHAT IF MY WISHES DIFFER FROM MY ADULT CHILD’S WISHES?

SDRC must have an individual’s consent before proceeding with a referral for services. If an individual is verbally able to state that they do not wish to be involved with our agency, we cannot provide further assistance. In this event, guardianship status must be verified before SDRC can proceed further.

For more information about the parameters within which developmental services work, please contact us at 519-741-1121.